

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070603
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 CPR-01 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:FLW
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ
-----011758Z 011936 /46
R 302319Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 070603

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: REPLY TO NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO KIM KWAN SUK FROM
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE. LETTER IS IN RESPONSE TO
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER:

BEGIN TEXT

DEAR MR. KIM:

I AM REPLYING ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CARTER TO YOUR RECENT
LETTER IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED THE CONCERN OF THE KOREAN
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OVER ISSUES OF MILITARY
SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE FUTURE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA,
WHICH YOU DISCUSSED IN YOUR LETTER, DOES NOT MEAN A
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LESSENING OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO KOREA'S SECURITY. AS
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED, THIS WITHDRAWAL WILL BE
CARRIED OUT CAREFULLY, AND ONLY AFTER FULL CONSULTATION
WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. U.S. AIR UNITS IN KOREA WILL
REMAIN, AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR PROGRAM OF ASSISTING ROK
FORCES TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES. AFTER AMERICAN

GROUND TROOPS ARE WITHDRAWN, THE ABILITY AND RESOLVE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA JOINTLY TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA WILL REMAIN UNDIMINISHED.

WITH REGARD TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION, WHICH YOU RAISED IN YOUR LETTER, WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE CONCERN AND THE EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD ON THE PART OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. PRESIDENT CARTER TAKES A DEEP INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WHICH WILL ,LAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

WE HOPE THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR FIRM SECURITY COMMITMENT, OUR CLOSE TRADITIONAL TIES AND OUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, OUR RELATIONS WITH THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL DEVELOP TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES.

END TEXT

2. LETTER HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY TO COUNCIL.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PFOR, KS, US, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, (KIM KWAN SUK)
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